



February 5, 2015

Written testimony of James M. Pettey, Administrator, Bayview Health Care Concerning:

***Proposed H.B. No. 5586 AN ACT INCREASING NURSING FACILITY RATES.**
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/H/2015HB-05586-R00-HB.htm>

***Proposed H.B. No. 5812 AN ACT CONCERNING A COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR NURSING FACILITIES.** **<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/H/2015HB-05812-R00-HB.htm>**

***Proposed S.B. No. 231 AN ACT CONCERNING COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES FOR NURSING HOMES.** **<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/S/2015SB-00231-R00-SB.htm>**

Good evening Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and to the members of the Human Services Committee.. My name is James M. Pettey. I am the Administrator of Bayview Health Care in Waterford, Connecticut. Bayview is a longstanding provider of nursing care in the communities of Waterford, New London, East Lyme and Niantic, Connecticut. Bayview is a 127 bed subacute rehab, skilled and long term care facility with about 215 employees. We are a Five Star facility with a superior reputation for care, and have been a member of this community for more than 25 years.

First I want to publicly thank the state legislators who introduced these badly needed bills---House Republican Leader Klarides, and Representatives Perillo and Gentile, and State Senator Crisco. And thank you also to the Human Services Committee for including these bills at this public hearing.

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The bills all get to the same issue. Medicaid Nursing facility rates have been basically flat since 2007, but costs have been dramatically rising. The bills address the fundamental problem of the escalating cost of providing high quality health care by increasing payments based on a cost of living adjustment.


The message from the operator's point of view is simple----Our nursing facilities need your help. We just can't continue on a path where no help is provided without strapping our employees and jeopardizing quality.

Here are some examples of what we are up against in our nursing facility while the rates have been stagnant:

- New or updated regulatory guidelines regarding increased criminal record check guidelines that require that facilities make changes that have costs, but are not reimbursable.
- New or updated regulatory guidelines regarding digital information under HIPPA that require that facilities make changes that have costs, but are not reimbursable.
- New or updated regulatory guidelines regarding additional mandatory dementia training for staff that require that facilities make changes that have costs, but are not reimbursable.
- Increased utility costs (Propane, electricity) that will not be recouped until the next Medicaid Rebasing.
- Affordable Care Act costs to employers.

I am asking you to advance these bills and provide our nursing facilities the help they need to care for our residents.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.


James M. Pettey, Administrator